GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5255
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2001
LINKING OF RIVERS
GOWDAR MALLIKARJUNAPPA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Water Development Agency has prepared six feasibility reports out of the proposed 16 interlinking projects;

(b) if so, whether a study was made on diversion of water from surplus basins to drought prone areas by interlinking major rivers of the country;

(c) if so, whether the study also includes construction of reservoirs to store flood water to improve drought-prone areas;

(d) if so, the time by which the reports are likely to be received; and

(e) the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (c) : The Ministry of Irrigation(now Ministryof Water Resources) and the Central Water Commission have formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages inter linkages among the various Peninsular rivers and among the Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins for optimum utilisation of water resources. The Government of India has established National Water Development Agency(NWDA) as an Autonomous Societyin July 1982 to inter-alia carry out the water balance and feasibility studies of the National Perspective Plan. Comprehensive studies have been made by NWDA regarding interbasin transfer of water incorporating the diversion of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/drought prone areas by interlinking major rivers of the country. The proposals of interbasin water transfer schemes mostly envisage using existing storage reservoirs or storage reservoirs proposed to be constructed by the States under their plan proposals. Construction of storage reservoirs, as part of the project proposals, is also envisaged, wherever necessary. The Plan envisages 17 water transfer links under the Peninsular rivers development component and 14 water transfer links under the Himalayan rivers development component. The pre-feasibility reports of all the 31 links have been completed.

(d) & (e) : It is programmed to complete all the feasibility reports of identified interbasin water transfer link schemes under Peninsular Component by the year 2004 and those for Himalayan Component by the year 2008. Implementation of water transfer link proposals is inter alia linked to how soon the detailed project reports with estimate of cost are prepared after consensus is reached among the concerned States and availability of funds for their implementation.